

***Remarks***

Upon entry of the foregoing amendment, claims 1-46 are pending in the application. New claims 45-46 are sought to be added. These changes are believed to introduce no new matter, and their entry is respectfully requested.

The new claims are generally directed to the use of a Virtual Machine in the context of aggregating security functions, such as firewalls, anti-spam, anti-virus, network security, etc. The use of Virtual Machines is described in, e.g., paragraph 0033 and paragraph 0001, which follows paragraph 0033 (the paragraphs are mis-numbered due to a glitch in the word processing software). Security functions are generally disclosed in, e.g., original claim 7 (“spam filter operation”, “firewall installation and configuration,” “security-related analysis and operations”), and throughout the text of the specification.

***Conclusion***

Prompt and favorable consideration of this Preliminary Amendment is respectfully requested. Applicants believe the present application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number provided.

Respectfully submitted,

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